



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON DC 20370-5100

JRE
Docket No: 1087-98
22 November 1999

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of title 10 of the United States Code, section 1552.

A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 18 November 1999. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies. In addition, the Board considered the advisory opinion furnished by a designee of the Specialty Advisor for Psychiatry dated 13 May 1999, a copy of which is attached.

After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice. In this connection, the Board substantially concurred with the comments contained in the advisory opinion. In addition, it was not persuaded that your headache condition rendered you unfit for duty at the time of your discharge. It concluded that you would have been able to continue your career in the Navy had you not been discharged because of a personality disorder. Accordingly, your application has been denied. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new and material evidence or other matter not previously considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official

records. Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

W. DEAN PFEIFFER
Executive Director

Enclosure

NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
PORTSMOUTH, VA 23708-2197

6520
0506-5-6065
13 May 99

From: Case Reviewer
To: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records,
Department of the Navy, Washington, DC 20370-5100
Subj: APPLICATION FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS IN CASE OF
FORMER [REDACTED]
Ref: (a) Your ltr dtd 10 Mar 98, #1087-98
Encl: (1) BCNR File
(2) Service Record
(3) VA Record/Medical Record

1. Pursuant to reference (a) a review of enclosures (1) through (3) was conducted to form opinions about subject petitioner's claim, in effect, that he was unfit for duty because of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and migraine headaches when he was discharged by reason of unsuitability on 1 Feb 80. He contends that his headaches and the condition resulting in his discharge, which was diagnosed as a schizoid personality disorder, were actually manifestations of PTSD.

2. Facts of the case: This case was previously considered as docket number 9176-85; thus, the facts will not be restated here except to note that since then Subject has been granted service connected disability by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for posttraumatic stress disorder and headaches.

3. The following opinions are submitted:

a. Because two separate psychological examinations, 11 Sep 79 and 28 Sep 79, resulted in a diagnosis of Schizoid Personality Disorder, I believe it is reasonable to accept this diagnosis as valid. Subject was separated with an honorable discharge based on this diagnosis and the recommendation of the psychologist, and he did not object to the discharge.

b. The active duty medical record fails to provide evidence of PTSD symptoms or symptoms resembling PTSD. Although the actual term "PTSD" was not recognized in 1979, combat stress reactions were recognized, and the record does not provide evidence that Subject suffered from combat stress. Headaches, in and of themselves, would not be considered evidence of PTSD. Lacking evidence of PTSD, I do not believe Subject was

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manifesting symptoms consistent with PTSD at the time of separation from the Navy.

c. I believe Subject was exposed to traumatic situations while on active duty. I believe that he currently manifests PTSD. But I believe that his PTSD had its onset after his release from active duty. To support this opinion I point to his original VA compensation examination of 5 Aug 92. This examination concluded that he had PTSD, but that the symptoms constituting the disorder were of relatively recent onset. The diagnosis in today's nomenclature that most closely describes this set of facts is Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, With Delayed Onset.

d. Whether Subject's headaches represented an unfitting condition at the time he was separated by reason of unsuitability may be a question for another medical specialty.

4. Recommendation: Based on the evidence submitted for review a correction of the naval records is not warranted.

D. P. Kempf

D. P. KEMPF
CDR MC USNR